



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

"or of pleasure, which is the same thing, will seldom bear a minute scrutiny; I shall be satisfied with myself if I can make the best of things as they occur, without diving in search of unnecessary knowledge. Life, says the great prophet is a stream; if so, let me be a cork or feather, let me slip merrily down the dancing waves, and kiss every flower that blooms on the margin: better thus, than like a block or stone, roll along below, tumbling in cold and darkness." At these words, Ebn Mulish threw his arms around the Caliph's neck, and in a tone of solicitude, asked, if no unsatisfied wish had disturbed his five days' happiness. "Ah! yes, I wished for Arassid and I dreamed of Zorayma!" The philosopher stepped to the door, and returned leading the lovely apparition which had haunted Al Raschid's dreams—"Here is Arassid—here is Zorayma! take her from a father's hand, I hope she will secure the remaining five days of happiness. Be not amazed noble prince the Sultan of Circassia, hid in this disguise, has long studied your character. I saw your attachment to my daughter with pleasure, but wished to know the man thoroughly who should possess Zorayma; with her I took a secret journey, and settled near your court, forcing myself by affected bluntness on your notice. Now I know you, and once more take her. But O! Al Raschid, let not this vast accession of felicity disturb that happy, that philosophic serenity which I see you possess. Never think of yourself independently; nor dream, that because you are the greatest man in Bagdad, you are the second being in the universe. What is the universe, and what art thou? Commander of the Faithful is a pompous appellation; but who are the faithful? A handful of two-legged insects, crawling in a corner of a paltry planet, called the earth. The annihilation of a thousand earths, with all their inhabitants, would make no blank in the universe. Examine the boundless skies; new suns at times appear there, with worlds revolving round them, inhabited by myriads of creatures rejoicing in their light. For some centuries they beam in our heavens, and increase our nocturnal canopy, till the fatal night arrives which the

hand that formed them had marked for their extinction. The astronomer then looks in vain for them; the radiant orbs are vanished, their systems left in darkness, or hurled into confusion, and all animation there for ever lost. What is man?"

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF THE AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

(Concluded from Page 354. No. V.)

THE Committee, after describing the state of society which had been produced in Africa by a trade calculated to destroy all confidence, to engender hatred, and spread desolation, observe:

"In such a dreadful state of society, what success could rationally be expected in any attempt to promote agriculture or legitimate commerce? The attempt was obviously hopeless; and even if there existed no other assignable cause for the small progress made by the Sierra Leone Company, in meliorating the condition of Africa, this seems to furnish a satisfactory solution of it.

The Committee, however, are desirous of cautioning the friends of the Institution against expecting any very great effects to be immediately produced, even by the cessation of the Slave Trade. Africa, exhausted by the expiring struggles of that ruinous traffick, may for a time be incapable of much exertion in other directions. On the coast especially, where the operation of the Society must commence, the population is so greatly thinned, by the excessive demands, which have been made upon it, as to place very considerable difficulties in the way of the general diffusion of knowledge, and the general excitement of industry. Large districts in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, which, ten years ago, were comparatively populous, are now reduced to wastes, with hardly a trace of their former culture; and if an estimate were to be made of the existing population, for about seventy or eighty miles inland, on that district of coast which extends from the Rio Grande to Cape Palmas, with the exception of one state where some degree of security and improve-

ment is enjoyed in consequence of the adoption of the Mahomedan code, the average amount would probably be found to be less than seven persons to a square mile.

These facts, at the same time, are not of a nature which ought to have any effect in discouraging the exertions of the society. On the contrary, by displaying the magnitude of that work of beneficence and mercy in which it is engaged, they ought rather to redouble those exertions. The difficulties are great, but by no means insuperable. Though the Coast has been so greatly depopulated, yet the African continent is still possessed of an immense population. If security be given to the Coast, and encouragements held out to industry, the waste will soon be re-animating with new life. Labourers will migrate to the spot where their persons will be safe, and their labour productive. Men of commercial enterprise will be attracted to the points where the manufactures of Europe may be safely bartered for the productions of Africa; and the benefits of industrious occupation, of a fair and legitimate commerce, of order, justice and security, being once felt, they cannot fail to be duly appreciated and widely diffused.

But how, it will be asked, is that security which is the parent of industry, and of all those blessings which attend industry, to be attained? This is a subject which has occupied the attention of the Committee, and on which individual members of their body have favoured them with valuable suggestions; but as yet, it is one on which they are not prepared fully to enter. They will at present advert only to a single point connected with it.

One great (it may be almost said indispensable) step to the attainment of the security here spoken of, would be, to induce the other nations of the earth to follow the example which has been set them by Great Britain and America, and to relinquish the trade in Slaves. It cannot be denied that much of the success of any plan, which may be devised with a view to the improvement of Africa, will depend on the degree in which that trade is generally suppressed. At present,

indeed, the Portuguese settled at Brazil, are the only persons at liberty to carry it on. Whether they can be prevailed upon to abandon it, and whether any measures can be taken effectually to prevent British capital from swelling the negro population, and enlarging the cultivation of South America, at the expense of the protracted misery of the African continent and the eventual ruin of our own colonies, are questions which the Committee will not now discuss. It may, however, be possible to induce the Government of Brazil, if not wholly to abandon the Slave Trade, yet to confine it within certain limits, by forbidding the supply of any colony belonging to a foreign nation, and by restraining their traders to the Eastern Coast of Africa, or at least to that coast and the coast of Angola. This may be the more practicable, since, with the exception of not quite a thousand slaves, which have been annually taken by the Portuguese from their settlement of Bissao, at the mouth of the Rio Grande, their Slave Trade is, in point of fact, already confined within the limits which have been specified; and, should the Portuguese agree to this restriction, the African coast, from the 20th degree of N. lat. to the 4th or 5th degree of S. lat. an extent of about 2300 miles, would be entirely free from the European Slave Trade, at least during the continuance of the present war.

But, supposing this object to be attained, it must still require the utmost efforts, on the part of the friends of Africa, so to improve the present crisis, as that on the termination of the war, those powers who may wish to resume the Slave Trade, may find the Africans so much enlightened with respect to their true interests as to be proof against its temptations. Under these circumstances it seems unnecessary to endeavour to impress on the public, how very urgent is the call for exertion; and, with a view to that exertion, how important it is, that funds should be provided for giving effect to the beneficial designs of the institution.

The Committee, before they close their Report, will briefly advert to the measures which have been adopted, or are now taking by Government,

with respect to Africa; for although these measures do not fall within the scope of the Society's deliberations, they may in their consequences very materially advance its general objects.

Two ships of war were sent out to the Coast in the month of November last, with instructions to their Commanders, to prevent the infraction of the law for abolishing the Slave Trade, and to take every opportunity which might occur of reconciling the African Chiefs (who, it must be remembered, have very generally been Traders in Slaves) to this measure, and of explaining to them its beneficial tendency.

A commission, consisting of three gentlemen (two of whom possess considerable local knowledge) has also been appointed and will proceed in a few months to the Coast of Africa, for the purpose of minutely investigating the state of the different British settlements, and pointing out in what manner they may be made subservient to the great object of African civilization.

Much important information may also be expected from them respecting the capabilities of Africa in general, and the condition of her inhabitants, and the best means of improving both, to the mutual advantage of that continent and of Great Britain.

His Majesty's Government has further resolved to appoint a Court of Vice-Admiralty at Sierra Leone, for the purpose of giving more complete effect to the Act for abolishing the Slave Trade. The appointment of such a judicature is particularly desirable at the present moment, as otherwise all the vessels which may be seized under the Abolition Act must be carried to the West Indies for a adjudication; a course which would be attended with a cruel protraction of the confinement on ship board of the captured Slaves. At Sierra Leone it will also be much easier than it would be in the West Indies, to dispose of these persons, agreeably to the humane provisions of the Act of Parliament. The system of free labour being already established at Sierra Leone, the introduction of any number of Negroes into that Colony, whether on the footing of free labourers or as apprentices for a

limited period, could be attended with none of those inconveniences which, it is alleged, would flow from it in our West India islands, and which, as the Committee understand, are deemed to be so considerable as to make it a question whether many of the persons already liberated in the West Indies under the operation of the Abolition Act shall not be sent back to Sierra Leone. A better chance will also be thus afforded for restoring some of the captured Slaves to their former connections; and some of them, after having enjoyed the advantage of instruction in agriculture and in other useful arts at the Colony, may possibly be beneficially employed in disseminating, in other parts of Africa, the knowledge which they may have thus acquired."

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN, &c. OF
CARRICKFERGUS.

(Concluded from Page 334, No. V.

ON the different branches of a small river called Wood-burn, the scenery of each is truly charming, the banks being covered with a profusion of natural shrubbery; the sheet of water is not very large, and consequently does not send forth that stunning noise which renders some cascades disagreeable; it is, to use the words of a learned author, "A uniform murmur, such as composes the mind to pensive meditation." The streams have also several lesser falls, besides the fore-mentioned;

....."And steals, at last,
Along the mazes of the quiet vale."

Near the fall on the left, is a cave, hewn in a rock; it can be entered with some difficulty, and is pretty spacious. The Danish raths, or forts are very common here; I counted eight within three miles of the town, some of them very large, they are commonly called mounds, or forths, and believed by many to be the abode of fairies, &c.

I shall here mention the most memorable events of the place. About 320 years before Christ, Fergus the first, king of Scotland, founded the town*.

* The cause of Fergus coming hither, is said to have been as follows; being at